

BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
(Dr. L. Unsworth)  
for 1946

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Blackrod Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1946.

General Statistics.

Area (acres) ... ..	2392.394
Population (Census 1931) ... ..	3,599
Number of Inhabited Houses ... ..	910
Rateable Value ... ..	£11,740
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£46/15/-

Extracts from Vital Statistics during the year 1946.

Population estimated Mid. 1946 ... .. 2,830

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births { Legitimate	53	21	32
{ Illegitimate	1	1	-
	54	22	32

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population Mid. 1946 - 19.0

Stillbirths ... .. 3                      2                      1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... .. 52

Deaths ... .. 46                      26                      20

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... 16.2

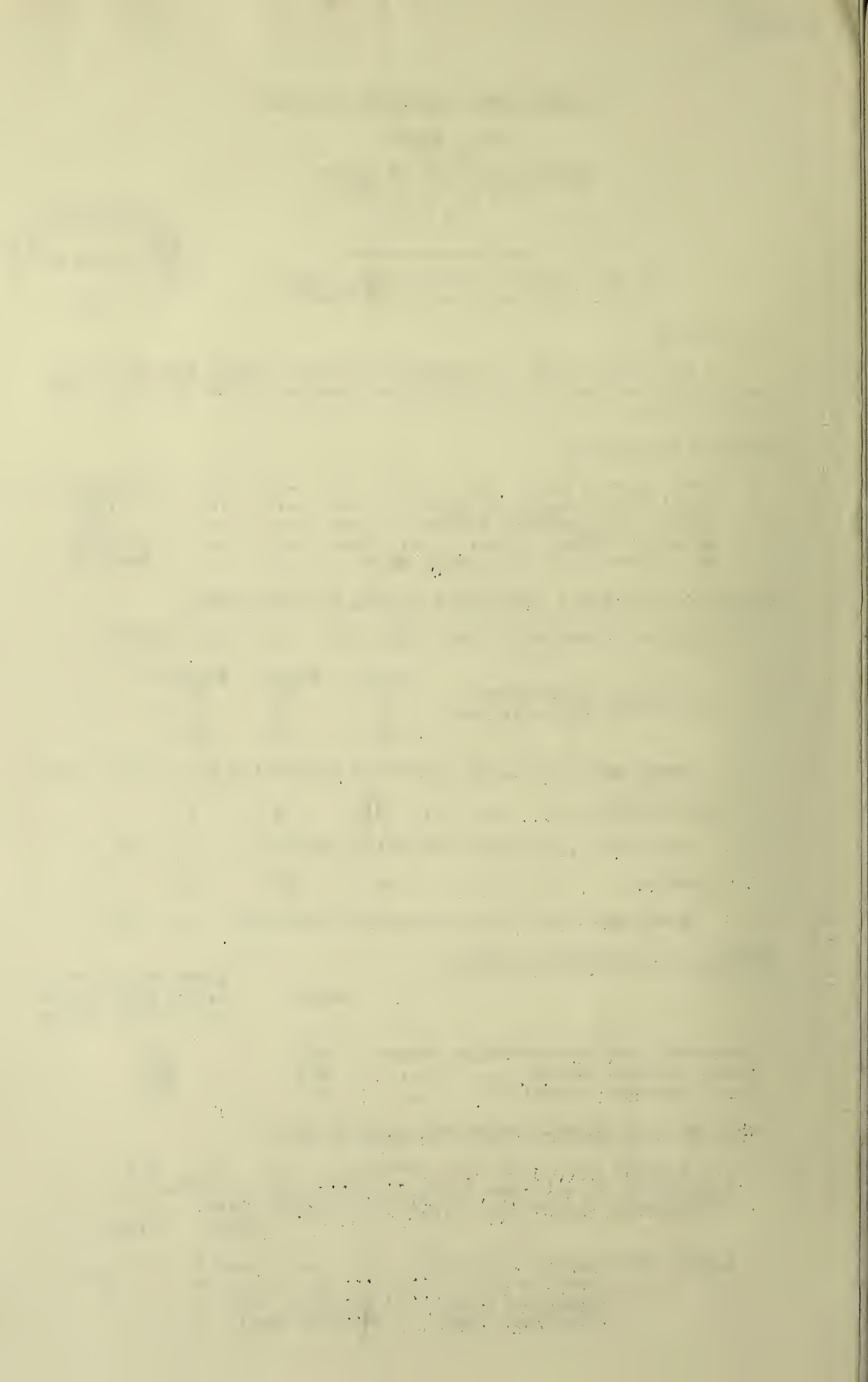
Deaths from puerperal causes:-

	Deaths	Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other maternal causes ... ..	Nil	Nil
Total maternal mortality ... ..	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

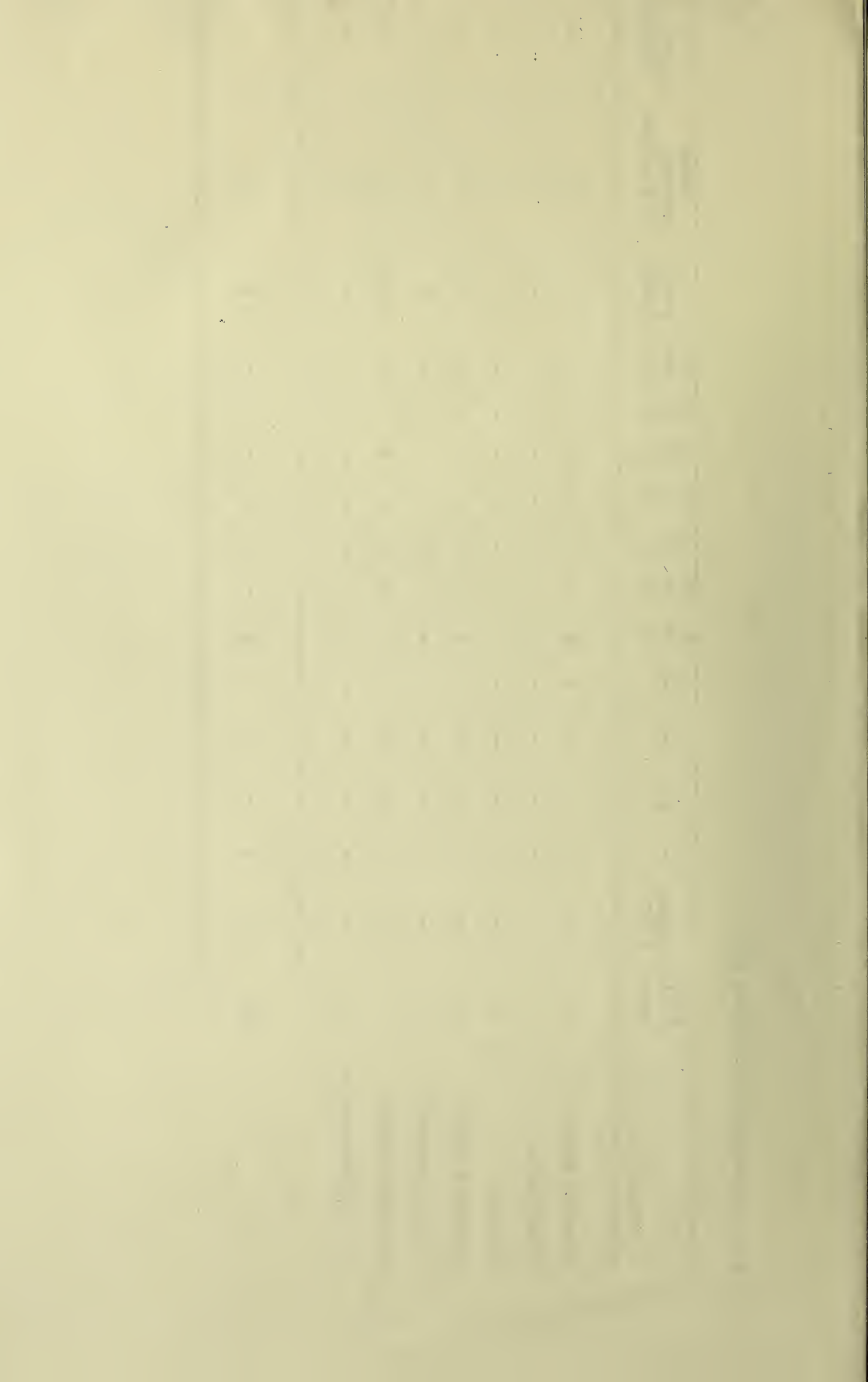
All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	111
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	94
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	1,000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	5
" " Measles (all ages) ... ..	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2



# Notifiable Diseases during 1946

	Total at all ages	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Total deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pul. Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	10	-	1	-	2	-	4	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	-





## Causes of Death during 1946.

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis ... ..	1	-
Cancer of Stomach ... ..	1	1
Cancer of other sites ... ..	2	1
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	4	3
Heart Disease ... ..	4	11
Other Diseases of cir. system ...	1	-
Bronchitis ... ..	2	-
Pneumonia ... ..	1	-
Diarrhoea ... ..	1	1
Other digestive disease ... ..	2	-
Nephritis ... ..	2	-
Premature Birth ... ..	2	-
Congenital Malformation ... ..	-	1
Violent Causes ... ..	2	-
All other causes ... ..	1	2
	-	-
Total	26	20

NOTE. - There were 19 Transferable deaths, which are included in the above.

## Causes of Sickness during the Year

There were only 9 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, compared with 69 in the previous year. These were - Scarlet Fever -2, Measles -1, Whooping Cough -4, Pneumonia -2. There were 62 children immunised against Diphtheria - 56 of these were school children and 6 were pre-school children.

## Nursing Arrangements

There is one District Nurse who is also a practising Midwife.

## Hospital Accomodation

For Smallpox -- no provision.

## Other Infectious Diseases

Joint Hospital situated at Fall Birch, Horwich, with subscriptions in proportion to rateable value. There are 54 beds in all, but no special number is allotted to any one district.

The Public Health Staff consists of a Part-time Medical Officer and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor.

A visiting Nurse is provided by the County.

## Ambulance Facilities

One Motor Ambulance is available for all types of cases (except Infectious Cases) and is adequate for the needs of the district. Infectious Disease Cases are removed by Motor Ambulance belonging to Fall Birch Hospital and conveyed to Infectious Disease Hospitals by arrangement.

## Mortuary

The Mortuary situated at the Cemetery is sufficient for the needs of the district.



## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

### Water Supply

Source of Supply:- Own Waterworks gathering Ground at Rivington (Moor Land).

- (1a). The quality of the water has been satisfactorily maintained.
- (1b). An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the year, without the need of any restrictions to be placed on consumers.
- (II). A Chlorination Plant has been installed to treat all water before passing into supply, which has been in continuous operation throughout the year.
- Two Chemical and one Bacteriological Analysis have taken of the water as it goes into supply. The results being fairly satisfactory.
- (III) The Local Authority insists on the use of tinned lead pipe for all water services, due to a slight action of the water upon lead.
- (IV) Normal precautions are taken against contamination of the water supply.
- (V) Number of dwelling houses with a pipe supply of water.
- (a) Direct to houses 906 = 3,590 persons
- (b) Supply from standpipe 5 = 9 persons

### Scavenging

Scavenging and gulley emptying on Class I and II Roads have been undertaken by the County Council. The remaining roads and streets are satisfactorily done by the Sanitary Authority.

Privy middens and Cesspools are emptied at regular intervals.

### Sewage Disposal

Method of treatment is by land irrigation.

Character of Drainage System - Combined and separate systems which are satisfactory, apart from the tendency of the tanks at Scot Lane to overflow in the brook following abnormal rainfall.

### Sanitary Inspections during the Year

Number of premises visited	...	...	300
Defects or nuisances discovered	...	...	160
Number abated	...	...	150
Notices served:- Informal	...	...	70
Statutory	...	...	24

Legal proceedings taken - 1.

Result - Successful with costs.





## Offensive Trades

None in the District.

## Slaughterhouses

There are no Public Slaughterhouses. There are two private ones (licensed), but these are, of course, closed during the present National Emergency, except for a few animals, which are slaughtered under a permit granted by the Food Executive Officer.

## Public Cleansing

The collection and disposal of household and trade refuse is carried out by direct labour. One motor lorry, supplemented by a horse and cart where necessary, are employed on this work. Salvage is collected, sorted and baled where possible, and stored for periodic removal by licensed merchants. The vehicle used for collection is old and will require replacing at an early date. The Provision of a new vehicle is under consideration.

## Common Lodging Houses

None in the District.

## Schools

There are three Junior Schools and one Modern School in the District, and the general conditions of sanitation and water supplies are satisfactory.

## Bakehouses

There are two Retail Bakehouses, both of which are not in use at present.

## Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops

These have been inspected and their condition generally was found to be satisfactory.

No. of Dairy Farms	...	...	...	26
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairy Farms)	...	...	...	26
No. of inspections during the year	...	...	...	120
No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors	...	...	...	2

## Factories and Workshops

Number in District	...	...	...	7
Bleachworks (closed as factory)	...	...	...	1
Weaving Shed	...	...	...	1
Cloggers	...	...	...	1
Wheelwright	...	...	...	-
Plumbers & Joiners	...	...	...	1

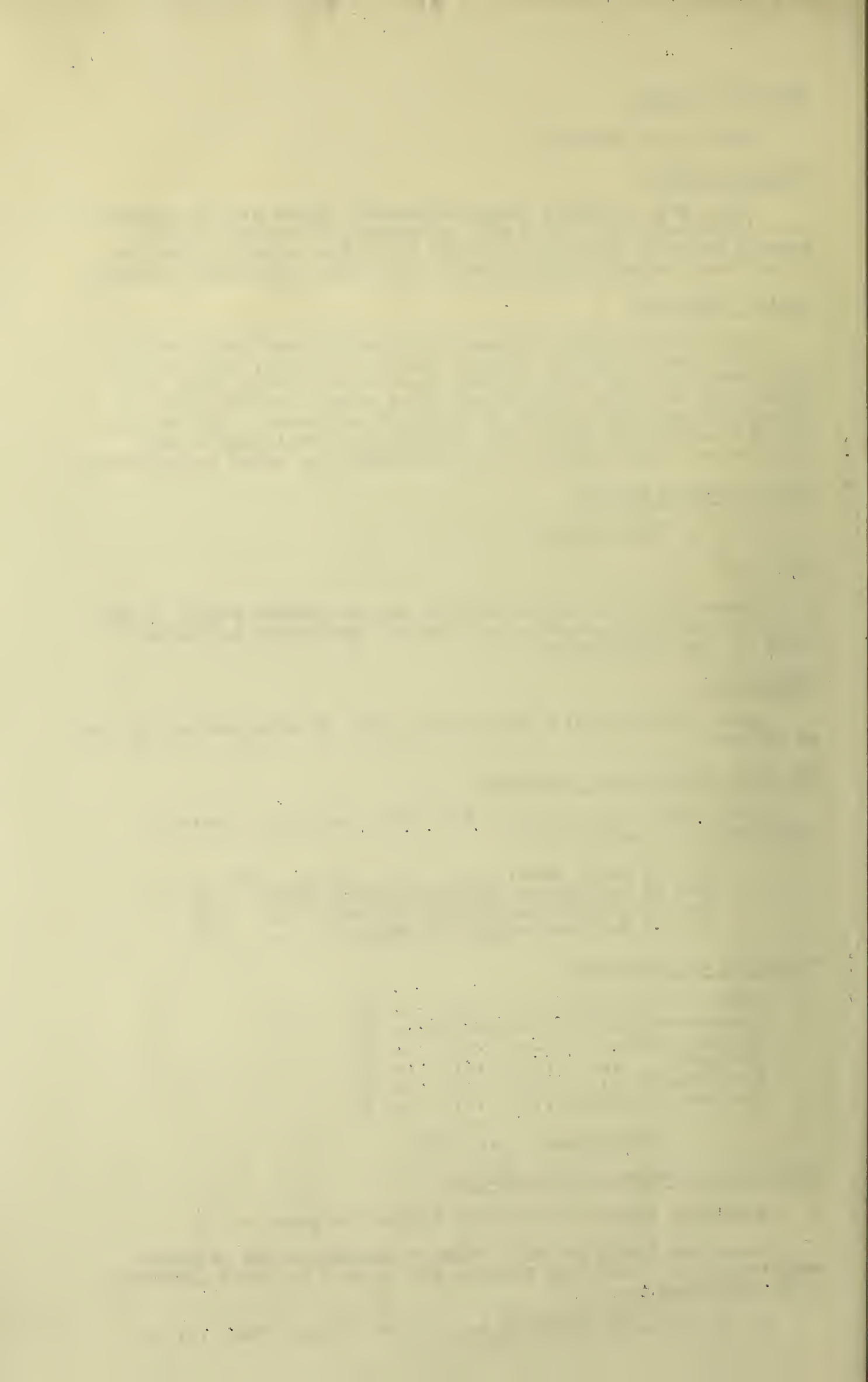
Inspections ... 10

## Infectious Disease and Disinfection

Number of houses disinfected during the year -- 2

Rooms are fumigated with "Tower" fumigators and patients suffering from Infectious Disease are removed by Motor Ambulance to an Isolation Hospital.

No. of Patients admitted to Hospital during 1946 ... 1.



## Conveniences in the District

Privy Middens - Middens	...	...	...	...	79
Closets attached to these middens	...	...	...	...	147
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	18
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Movable ashbins	...	...	...	...	652
No. of houses on Carriage Water System	..	...	...	...	742
No. of Fresh Water Closets	..	...	...	...	729
No. of Waste Water Closets	..	...	...	...	Nil

No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles - 3.

## Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year:- 6 Tarraan prefabricated Bungalows. The Local Authority have under consideration 42 permanent houses, and have completed site preparation for a further 54 houses.

The Housing Standard in the District for the working classes is low; many of the houses are built of stone and are old, and further improvements are necessary. Rising and penetrating dampness, spent roofs, lack of bathroom, hot and cold running water, and ventilated food store are the commonest form of housing defects. Five houses have been subject to Demolition Orders, the tenants of two being rehoused.

## Chief Sanitary requirements of the District

Further privy conversions, reconditioning and repairing of sub-standard houses. Demolition of unfit houses which cannot be repaired to provide the necessary standard of fitness required.

## Scabies

There have been a few cases of Scabies in the District and we have no facilities for cleansing purposes.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council's Officers for their kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

LEO UNSWORTH.

Dalton House,  
Westhoughton.

7th July, 1947.

